

The plan for Great Nicobar necessitates the felling of 9,64,000 trees. This is not a vague statistic; it is a forensic erasure of a primary rainforest. The species targeted include the giant \*Dipterocarpus\* and the Andaman Padauk (\*Pterocarpus dalbergioides\*). These trees do not exist as isolated units; they are the structural anchors for a multi-layered canopy that regulates the island's micro-climate.

The removal of this biomass eliminates a massive carbon sink. A single mature \*Dipterocarpus\* can sequester up to 15 tons of carbon over its lifespan. The felling process involves heavy machinery - bulldozers like the Cat D8 and excavators - that consume 50 liters of diesel per hour, emitting localized plumes of black carbon into the previously pristine air. The sensory transition from the cool, damp, moss-scented interior of the forest to a cleared, sun-baked construction site is a shift from life-sustaining shade to a 45-degree Celsius heat island. The loss of leaf litter also stops the nutrient cycle, turning the thin tropical topsoil into a hard, cracked crust within a single monsoon cycle.

The market valuation of the standing timber alone - the "blood-wood" Padauk and the straight-grained Gurjan - presents a fiscal absurdity that defies standard economic logic. In the high-end international markets of East Asia and Europe, the deep-red, interlocking grain of a mature Andaman Padauk is prized for luxury cabinetry and musical instruments, often fetching prices that elevate a single tree into a high-value asset. When calculated across the hundreds of thousands of specimens marked for felling, the raw commodity value of this "biomass" likely exceeds the initial capital outlay the government has earmarked for the project's infrastructure. We are witnessing a peculiar form of developmental alchemy where a self-sustaining, multi-billion dollar natural treasury is liquidated to fund the construction of concrete berths and asphalt runways, a trade-off that is never reflected in the official cost-benefit ratios presented to the public.

This massive discrepancy in valuation demands a rigorous audit of the project's underlying motivations. If the timber's market price outweighs the projected economic yield of the transshipment port for the first several decades, the "development" label becomes a convenient shroud for what is essentially a resource extraction operation of unprecedented scale. The lack of transparency regarding the auctioning, processing, and revenue-mapping of this salvaged timber raises systemic questions about **who truly profits** from the "site preparation." By treating a primary rainforest as an obstacle with zero intrinsic or commercial value in the ledgers, the state effectively subsidizes private contractors with the islands' ecological capital, leaving the public to inherit both the environmental wreckage and the bill for a project that was insolvent from the moment the first Padauk hit the forest floor.

One tree can be processed into 3400 such Tables. Resulting in the value of approx. 3,655,680,000 Indian Rupees per tree. Imagine the value of all the trees.

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